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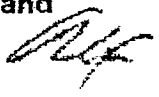
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I will unfortunately be unable to attend your May 23 meeting on water use efficiency. I am, therefore, writing to urge that you give attention to an aspect of efficiency that has not, I believe, received sufficient attention; that is better multiple use and reuse of stream flows.

At the last BDAC meeting I mentioned two examples. Drainage water with a highly concentrated salt load now enters the San Joaquin River primarily via Salt and Mud Sloughs. Water is then released from New Melones to dilute that salt load to the salinity of the Vernalis water quality standard. The time and rate of entry of the drainage water to the river should be (and can be) controlled to utilize dilution available from fish flows, power releases, etc. This would make multiple use of those available flows and would save as much as 100,000 acre feet of New Melones water in some years.

Releases are also made from New Melones to augment the inflow of the San Joaquin River to the Delta at Vernalis. These augmentations are for endangered species protection and to provide adequate flows downstream of Vernalis for conveyance of salmon smolts and for other fishery needs. This flow augmentation should be provided by reusing water instead of burdening the overcommitted river system. This can be done by recirculating water from the Delta Mendota Canal through its connections to the river, thence down the river to the CVP pumps for recapture and reexport down the canal. Pump capacity is available during the spring fish flows to superimpose this operation on the pumping that would otherwise occur. The water savings will depend on the extent to which the reuse can be substituted for water releases from New Melones or other tributaries. The savings will probably be in the range of 100,000 to 200,000 acre feet.

These proposals are being given some consideration by USBR and by the SWRCB on the basis of suggestions by the South Delta Water Agency.